

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

serving a first web page via an electronic storefront containing visual content including a check-out option;

receiving a check-out request from a consumer user of [[an]] the electronic storefront to purchase one or more products from the electronic storefront;

serving a second web page via the electronic storefront containing hidden content including information to redirect the browser client to a web page hosted by a payment service web site, redirection to the web page hosted by the payment service web site causing the browser client to communicate a service cookie, stored by the browser client, to the payment service web site;

extracting user identification information from the service cookie to determine an identify of the consumer user;

determining whether the consumer user is authorized to use a payment service via a check with a corresponding user profile;

determining whether the consumer user is authorized to use [[a]] the payment service to make purchases from the electronic storefront;

storing information at the payment service web site, the information to redirect the browser client to the web page hosted by the payment service web site, the information including a return URL (uniform resource locator) corresponding to a third web page;

extracting the return URL embedded in the information;

comparing the return URL that is extracted to a return URL corresponding to the third web page to determine whether redirection to the third web page should be performed;

redirecting the client browser to a third web page hosted by the electronic storefront, the redirecting including:

serving a web-based check-out interface, hosted by the electronic storefront, to a browser client used by the consumer user, the check-out interface including an option to enable the consumer user to make payment for the one or more products via the payment service if it is determined the user is authorized to use the payment service.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending a the service cookie containing information to identify the consumer user from the payment service to the browser client;

~~passing the service cookie via the browser client to the payment service in response to a prompt from the electronic storefront; and~~

~~identifying the consumer user via the service cookie.~~

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising authenticating the electronic storefront with the payment service.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the electronic storefront is authenticated by:
selecting a merchant identity (ID) for the electronic storefront to be used for transactions involving the payment service;

providing a merchant ID from the electronic storefront to the payment service; and
comparing the merchant ID that is provided with the merchant ID that was selected to authenticate the user.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the merchant ID is provided to the payment service via a URL (uniform resource locator).

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the web-based check-out interface by employing an application program interface (API) that is provided to the electronic storefront by the payment service.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising serving a web-based check-out interface to the browser client that does not include an option to enable the consumer user to make payment of the one or more products via the payment service if it is determined the user is not authorized to use the payment service to make purchases from the electronic storefront.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the operation of determining whether the consumer user is authorized to use the payment service to make purchases from an electronic storefront is performed without the knowledge of the consumer user.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[10]] 1, further comprising embedding information in the URL to the third web page indicating whether the user is authorized to use the payment service.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[10]] 1, further comprising providing an interface to enable an administrator for the electronic storefront to register one or more return URLs with the payment service.

13.-29. (Cancelled)